

Remarks

The Office Action mailed June 20, 2006 has been carefully considered. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claim 9.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 23, and 24 have been amended. New claims 26-30 have been added. Favorable reconsideration of the remaining claims in the present application is respectfully requested.

The Office rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the about 95 to about 99 wt % of an aqueous water-soluble polymer solution to comprise from about 0.5 to about 5% solid level.

Claims 2 and 10 have been amended for clarification of “mPa•s”

Claim 23 has been amended to clarify the about 95 to about 99 wt % of an aqueous water-soluble polymer solution to comprise from about 0.5 to about 5% solid level.

Claim 24 has been amended to delete the (.) after 75C° and 200C°.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houben et al. (U.S. Patent 6,013,325).

The Office rejected Claims 1-8, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houben et al. (U.S. Patent 6,013,325).

Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to include “wherein the aqueous water-soluble polymer solution comprises from about 0.5 to about 5% solid level”. Claims 2 and 4-8 depend on claim 1, and claim 24 depends on claim 23. Claims 10 and 26-30 are dependent on claim 9, which has been allowed and includes “wherein the aqueous water-soluble polymer solution comprises from about 0.5 to about 5% solid level”. Claim 9 was allowed “since Houben et al. do not teach or suggest employing the instant low amount (about 0.5 to about 5%) of solid level.”

The Applicants respectfully request the Office withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Based on the forgoing remarks, allowance of the claims in the application is respectfully requested. If any issues remain unresolved, Applicants’ counsel would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,

/Philip P. McCann/

Philip P. McCann
Registration No. 30,919
SMITH MOORE LLP
P.O. Box 21927
Greensboro, NC 27420
(336) 378-5302
phil.mccann@smithmoorelaw.com

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